

# UWD Newsletter

## Walking for hope and UWD



### SPECIAL EVENTS/ FUNDRAISERS COMING UP:

- Car Boot sale – 30 July
- Cycle tour – 22-23 October
- Christmas market – 25 November

### ONGOING PROJECTS:

- Coffee shop
- Weekly cookie and quiche orders
- Annual calendar

One of our grannies here at Up with Downs has a passion for walking. She has 1000s of kilometers under her belt and decided to add another 263km for a good cause: raising money for Up with Downs. Elsa is the grandmother of Savanna, one of Up with Downs' learners who joined the school all the way from Underberg, KZN in June 2021. Being a grandmother of a child with special needs, Elsa

knows all about the challenges our children have to face everyday just to be part of society. Celebrating these children's tenacity and courage was one of Elsa's focus points during her 14 day Pilgrimage of Hope walk. As Elsa and her friends made their way down Montagu pass, the learners and adults from UWD waited for them at the Tolhuis - to cheer them on and have a pancake together.

Though it was very windy, it was an enjoyable outing and it was great to meet the other ladies walking with Elsa. Elsa raised R13 000 during her walk. How amazing! Thank you Elsa for your initiative and being an inspiration to us all.

On the right:  
Big hugs for granny from a very proud granddaughter.





# Easter egg hunt fun



The Easter bunny got creative this year, not only did he cover the playground with his Easter eggs but he also left

instructions. The learners had to find the eggs with the colour of their class and with a picture of a bunny and one with an

egg! Both the school and training centre had lots of fun.

## Wonderful volunteer Abbi

One of our wonderful volunteers, Abbi, from Abbi Geldenhuis Academy of Ballet, spends half an hour every week either with our school learners or adults. During this time, adults

and learners are swept away to another world through dance and movement. The focus is on body awareness and in the process students visit a jungle or transform into different magical





creatures, shift between being a soldier or a bird, even becoming part of a train. This is a fun and interactive session and it makes every Thursday so much better. Thank you to Abbi and her assistant Carla for giving their time and energy.

Pictured on the right: Adults and school learners having lots of fun during movement lessons with Abbi and Carla. Readers' challenge – spot the instructor on each photo and win a special prize!



## Career day at the Training centre



The students at the Training Centre had a Career day on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of June in celebration of all careers. We had officers from George Police Station, nurses from MediClinic as well as our own trustee member, farmer Gregg Powell, visiting us as part of this theme. Our visitors shared information about their workplace, the skills needed and the attitude required to do these occupations. Our students dressed up according to the careers they find interesting and inspiring, from a 'skaapboer' (Ivan) to a GlamGuru hairdresser (Inari).



# Annika an All star

Annika Boshoff participated in the first ever deep sea fishing competition for people with special needs in Durban, 13-15 May 2022.

The event started with a function where parents had the opportunity to meet each other as well the skippers, gillies and organizers of the event. It was also Annika's birthday and they went all out to make it special.

Everyone made an early start on Saturday morning; 13 boats were out by sunrise. Each boat had a skipper and a gillie being either an

SADSAA - or Protea angler, parent and competitor. All 13 boats returned with a fish or five; Annika returned after being out at sea for 6 hours with 5 'kabeljoue' (cod). Sunday morning Annika was amped to hook the big one. After being at sea for 4 hours, Annika landed a kuta of 13kg! This achievement was celebrated properly with song and dance. The weekend came to a close with a beautiful function where all the "All Stars" were honoured with a gold medal. Until next year!



## A mad wine auction!

It was indeed a Mad Hatter's Tea Party at the Fancourt banquet hall on Friday, 13 May with a single bottle of French Champagne raising R37 000 to bidding on custom made hats. The guests did not disappoint dressing wonderfully mad for this delightful 'tea party' and a group of our moms made sure the tables were tastefully decorated according to the theme.

Our friend Frederick Bekker raised over R500 000 for UWD during the evening. This was our 24<sup>th</sup> annual wine auction. Next year will be a celebration of 25 years – watch this space for more details.

Our Wednesday **COFFEE SHOP** is once again up and running! If you feel like tasty eats, delicious coffee and great company, contact Brenda on 082 853 5018 to make your booking.



# Arrrr.... mateys! An epic Pirate day to end the term

The last day of term was celebrated pirate style. There were sword fights around every corner, pirates were made to walk the plank, and some were forced to practice walking on



one leg to prepare them for the day if they have to function on a wooden leg, in true pirate style. No pirate day would have been complete without a treasure hunt complete with a bag of diamonds, a chest of gold coins and a juice box of 'rum'.